Manufacturing Set Top Boxes

94. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been trying to impose CAS deliberately in connivance with some companies manufacturing set top boxes;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether CAS is not considered consumer friendly and also anti cable operator; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof and Government's further reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The implementation of CAS was considered only in consumer interest. The representatives of Consumer Electronics and Television Manufacturers' Association (CETMA), who represented the indigenous industry, were consulted at different times.

(c) and (d) CAS is consumer-friendly and not anti-cable operators for the following reasons:-

(i) Government has specified Rs. 72/- (Plus taxes) as the maximum price of basic service tier, consisting of not less than 30 free-to-air channels of different genres of entertainment, news, sports, children's programmes and music. Additional free-to-air channels would also be available to subscribers within the maximum amount mentioned.

(ii) Consumers will have the choice to pay for only those pay channels which they choose to watch.

(iii) Consumers will have a control over the content, they wish to view.

(iv) It has been made obligatory for cable operators to make provisions for rent, security deposit, repair and maintenance of Set Top Boxes (STBs).

(v) Some MSOs/Cable Operators have come out with consumer

friendly schemes through which the STBs will be made available to consumers.

(vi) Government has reduced the duty on import of STBs and its components to make the STBs more affordable.

Deteriorating Standards of the Indian Film Industry

95. DR. AKHILESH DAS:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the fast deteriorating standards of the Indian film industry degenerating into obscenity, nudity and cultural degradation; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to ensure that the Indian films confirm to the cultural ethos of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) certifies films under the provisions of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 and the guidelines issued thereunder. The objectives of film certification are to ensure that:

(i) the medium of film remains responsible and sensitive to the values and standards of society;

(ii) artistic expression and creative freedom are not unduly curbed;

(iii) certification is responsive to social change;

(iv) the medium of film provides clean and health entertainment; and

(v) as far as possible, the film is of aesthetic value and cinematically of a good standard.

The following guidelines in the Cinematograph (Certification) Rules, 1991 address the concerns raised:

2(vii) Human sensibilities are not offended by vulgarity, obscenity or depravity;